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C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 001587

SIPDIS
FOR AF/FO AND AF/S
STATE PASS MCC FOR BRIGGS AND GAULL
E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/08/2014
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [KDEM](#) [MZ](#) [RENAMO](#)
SUBJECT: MOZAMBIKAN GENERAL ELECTIONS: RENAMO ALLEGES
IRREGULARITIES

REF: MAPUTO 1585 AND PREVIOUS

Classified By: Ambassador Helen La Lime for reasons 1.4 (b/d)

1. (C) Senior RENAMO advisor Artur Vilankulu, accompanied by two other RENAMO officials, called on the Ambassador on December 8 to express concern over alleged irregularities in the December 1 - 2 general elections. The three were in the midst of making the rounds of various foreign embassies with their complaints. Vilankulu claimed that many RENAMO adherents were deliberately excluded during the voter registration phase and that there were numerous cases of votes for RENAMO being spoiled by polling station staff. Further, he said, RENAMO party representatives (by law entitled to observe voting and counting) were driven out of some polling stations, leaving predominantly FRELIMO polling station staff free to spoil otherwise valid RENAMO ballots. Vilankulu referred to statements by RENAMO chief Dhlakama that he would not encourage any violence, but then warned that tensions were high and that RENAMO party officials would be unable to control their supporters if they chose to take to the streets. (Comment: Considering RENAMO's surprisingly weak showing, post believes it is highly unlikely that RENAMO supporters will take to the streets in significant numbers. End Comment.)

2. (C) The Ambassador immediately responded to the warning of violence, stressing to the RENAMO officials that she hoped their supporters would not respond in this way. She reminded them that they as leaders of the party play an important role in managing tension. Vilankulu quickly replied that he really did not expect violence. Pointing to findings by many observer groups, including the Embassy's, and to the National Observatory's parallel vote tabulation (PVT), the Ambassador asserted her belief that Guebuza's apparent clear lead reflected the will of those who voted, even if there had been irregularities in some areas. Although Vilankulu did not acknowledge that Dhlakama had lost, neither did he contest the Ambassador's statement. The Ambassador encouraged RENAMO to actively seek to position itself as a positive and constructive political movement.

3. (SBU) Separately, press reports continue to emerge over alleged ballot stuffing at some polling stations in the provinces of Tete and Niassa. In Changara district, Tete province, voter turnout reached an incredible 96 percent across the district's 95 polling stations (the national average is around 40 percent). Polling station counts indicate that 64,562 valid votes went to Guebuza compared to 919 to Dhlakama. Commentators claim that, in addition to the high turnout, the low Dhlakama figure is suspicious, given that in 1999 he garnered 5,337 votes in the district. RENAMO claims its official observers were driven out of the district both this year and in 1999, leaving RENAMO unable to observe vote counting at the polling station level where ballot stuffing would likely occur. The Carter Center and European Union observer missions are both closely following these allegations and have urged election officials to investigate and take action against any violation of electoral law (refs).
LA LIME